

Applicant: Nikolaus Eltrop
Serial No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
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IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 19 line 1, please delete the current heading "CLAIMS" and insert the following new heading:

--What is claimed is:--.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A distributor module for valve clusters (11), which possess at least one valve unit (13) with a principal valve (15) supplied by way of at least one supply duct (17) with pressure medium, and for the control thereof at least one pilot control valve (16) supplied with pilot control pressure medium by way of at least one pilot control supply duct (~~18a and 18b~~), said distributor module comprising:

1.1 at least one supply duct section (22) which is able to be coupled with at least one supply duct (17) of the valve cluster and at least two pilot supply duct sections (~~23a and 23b~~), which are able to be coupled with at least two pilot supply ducts (~~18a and 18b~~) of the valve cluster (11),

1.2 an interface (24) for the connection of the duct sections (~~22, 23a and 23b~~) with each other,

1.3 said interface (24) having a control element (25) associated with it, said control element being so designed that different switching conditions may be set, in which the supply duct section (22) and the pilot supply duct sections (~~23a and 23b~~) are put differently in circuit,

1.4 of which at least in the case of a first switching condition the pilot supply duct sections ~~(23a and 23b)~~ are connected together and simultaneously are separated from the supply duct section ~~(22)~~ and

1.5 at least in the case of a second switching condition all duct sections ~~(22, 23a and 23b)~~ are connected with one another.

2. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized by comprising~~ one supply duct section ~~(22)~~ which is coupled with the supply duct ~~(17)~~ of the valve cluster ~~(11)~~ and by two pilot control ducts ~~(23a and 23b)~~, which may each be coupled with a pilot control duct ~~(18a and 18b)~~ of the valve cluster ~~(11)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 1 ~~or in claim 2, characterized in that~~, wherein a third switching condition may be set, in which all duct sections ~~(22, 23a and 23b)~~ are separated from each other.

4. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the a fourth valve cluster may be set, in which the supply section ~~(22)~~ is connected with at least one of the pilot supply duct sections ~~(23a and 23b)~~ and simultaneously is separated from at least other pilot supply duct section ~~(23a and 23b)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized by~~ Claim 1, comprising a mounting area ~~(26)~~ for mounting on a valve cluster ~~(11)~~ and an oppositely placed operating face ~~(40)~~ for the operation of the control element ~~(25)~~, preferably the duct sections ~~(22, 23a and 23b)~~ at least adjacent to the mounting area ~~(26)~~ in the mounted state of the distributor module ~~(1)~~ being aligned with the respective ducts ~~(17, 18a and 18b)~~ in the valve cluster ~~(11)~~ and the connection with the interface ~~(24)~~ being constituted in each case by several duct section flow redirecting portions.

6. (Current Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the interface ~~(24)~~ is divided up into at least three more particularly contiguous interface sectors ~~(27a, 27b and 27c)~~ into which in

each case at least one and more particularly a single duct section (~~22, 23a and 23b~~) opens, and by means of the control element (25) flow bridges (29) conducting the pressure medium between the interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) may be opened and closed.

7. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control element (25) arranged on the interface (24) is movable in relation to it and has at least three more particularly contiguous control sectors (30), the control sectors (30) being able to be so coupled with the interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) that dependent on the position of the control sectors (30) in relation to the interface sector (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) pressure medium may be transferred by way of the respective flow bridge (29) to respectively adjacent interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~).

8. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the individual interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) are separated from one another by transverse interface partitions (33) and in the case of an aligned state of a transverse control partition (33) with a transverse interface partition (28) the associated flow bridge (29) is closed.

9. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 7 ~~or claim 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the control element (25) is rotatably supported on the interface (24) and is more particularly in the form of a cap-like rotary switch, the position of the control sectors (30) in relation to the non-rotary interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) may be changed by rotation of the control element (25) in relation to the interface 24.

10. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 7 through 9, characterized in that~~ Claim 7, wherein the interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) and preferably the control sectors (30) have the cross section of a circular segment and more particularly in the fitted together condition constitute a circular face.

11. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein between the control element (25) unit interface (24) a seal is arranged for fluid-tight sealing of respectively adjacent interface sectors (~~27a, 27b and 27e~~) with the flow bridge (29) closed in each case, which preferably is

adapted to the shape of the control sectors (30) and is connected with the control element (25) in a non-rotary manner.

12. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the control element (25) possesses detent means for snapping into a switching position corresponding to a desired switching condition, detent spurs (34) being preferably on the control element (25), which may snap into detent grooves (35) on the interface (24).

13. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises~~ Claim 1, comprising externally visible switching insignia or symbols (36), more particularly numbers, each thereof corresponding to a predetermined switching condition and more particularly the switching symbols (36) are arranged on the operating side (40) of the distributor module (12) adjacent to the interface (24), more particularly adjacent to the periphery of the preferably circularly designed control element (25).

14. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein element (25) possesses at least one actuating means (37) for more particularly manual switching over between the different switching conditions, such element more particularly cooperating with one of the switching symbols (36) simultaneously indicates the currently selected switching condition as an indicating element.

15. (Currently Amended) The distributor module as set forth in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein it is designed in the form of a valve unit (13) with one principal valve (15) supplied with pressure medium by way of at least one supply duct (17) and at least one pilot control valve (16) serve for the control of same and supplied by way of at least one pilot control supply duct (~~18a and 18b~~) with pilot control pressure medium.

16. (Currently Amended) A valve cluster comprising at least one valve unit, which has a principal valve (15) supplied by way of at least one supply duct (17) with pressure medium, and by way of at least one pilot supply duct (~~18a and 18b~~) with pilot

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pressure medium, ~~characterized by~~ comprising at least one distributor module (12) as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1.